

BOTANICAL ORCHIDS

Botanical orchids are named thus because most of them have no commercial value to the florist in corsage work, either because the flowers are too small or the plants are too scarce. Yet, many of these represent some of the world's most interesting and beautiful orchids. I can usually supply a nice assortment of botanicals as follows:

Oncidiums: Sphacelatum - Altissimum - Ansiferum - Luridum - Splendidum, etc.

Epidendrums: Atro purpureum - Phonecium - Ciliare, etc.

Laelias - Brassavolas - Phauis - Cypripedium - Habaneria - Orchis, etc.

Dendrobiums: Nobile, Peirardie, Fimbriatum, Densiflorum, Formosum, Farmeri, Clavatum, etc.

Vandas: Joaquim, plus many kinds of strap-leaf Vandas.

PRICES ON BOTANICALS

ONCIDIUMS:---- \$5. per plant.

LAELIAS: ----- \$5. per plant

EPIDENDRUMS:- \$5. per plant.

CYPRIPEDIUMS: - \$5. per plant

DENDROBIUMS:- \$7. per plant.

PHAUIS: ----- \$6. per plant

STRAP-LEAF VANDAS:* \$8.50 a plant

Please add about 75¢ to cover shipping. All plants are blooming size plants.

VANDA JOAQUIM: \$5.50 per dozen for mature plants which will bloom within 1 year if grown in the full sun. These require the full sun for good blooming, or may be grown under artificial fluorescent lights, indoors. (Write for information if interested). Mature plants, in bud, when available, 3 for \$5.00 postpaid. (Please write before ordering as budded plants are not always available).

I also carry a line of Specie Cattleya Orchids for those who collect species. Please write, stating your interests for a special quotation on available stock.

I use Osmunda, either whole or chopped, in growing most of my orchid plants. I do not like to grow in bark as plants require a great deal more care, weekly fertilization, and are easily subject to rot if overwatered. With chopped osmunda I mix the nutrients right in with it. Plants grown this way do not require fertilizer or added nutrients but once in 2 years or a little sooner if the osmunda rots out sooner. It is more costly to grow a plant this way but the reward is better, vigorous plants, with a great deal of less work in the long run. Chopped osmunda with nutrients added is \$7.00 for 5 lbs. prepaid anywhere in the U. S.

TERRESTRIAL (SOIL GROWING) ORCHID PLANTS

For the past year I have literally combed the four corners of the world to find some new and interesting type of Orchid plants which could be grown in SOIL as a potted house plant. I have located three kinds which I think you will enjoy and find of genuine interest.

Aplectrum Hyemale: a very rare orchid which produces unusual green-brown flowers on a long spike.

Habenaria Ciliaris: a brilliant orange-yellow flowering cluster of flowers on a spike.

Orchis Spectabilis: a lovely and attractive two-tone purple-lavender type flower on a spike. Fragrant.

All will grow in rich garden soil, and all will bloom this spring or summer. Growing instructions will be included.

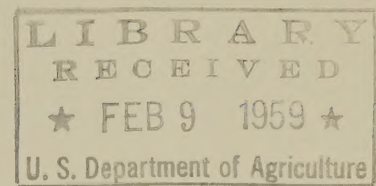
Only \$2. each; 3 for \$5.; 7 for \$10., postpaid. Limited Supply.

SAMUEL L. PRESNER

Box 10

Coral Gables 34, Florida

From the desk of
Samuel L. Presner



Esteemed Friend:

Over a period of the past 50 years the greatest problem facing the orchid grower, I think, has been the "potting material". Since there are thousands of different kinds of orchids growing in all parts of the world under so many varied conditions, the materials used in potting orchids has varied a great deal. In an effort to find one ideal medium most commercial growers, including myself, have tried various mediums. In the past dozen years I have tried charcoal, pebbles, sawdust, muck, peat, bark, tree fern, and osmunda, just to name a few.

While each medium had some advantage it also had disadvantages. For example, orchid plants grown in pebbles, charcoal and sawdust had to be fertilized weekly, alternating with several kinds of fertilizers. Plants also had a tendency to wither up and die after a while as many of the fertilizers built up a toxic condition in the medium, and the plants would dehydrate and wither away no matter how much water they received! Then in bark, peat moss and muck, plants grown under heavy, natural rainfall rotted by the score, were subject to all kinds of rot, mold and fungus diseases, that could not be controlled, no matter how many kinds of chemical fungicides were used.

Then we tried osmunda and tree fern and found in them almost the ideal medium. Tree fern does not decay rapidly, does not retain water excessively, is somewhat hard to pot as it is stiff and coarse, and releases very little food to the orchid plant itself as it decays too slowly. Osmunda, on the other hand is soft, is easy to pot with, breaks down slowly over a period of about 2 years and is fairly easy to use. While most osmunda comes in chunks and is a nuisance to cut, I have mine machine-chopped.

Chopped osmunda is easy to use. I add the nutrients to the chopped osmunda in a dry form. Then, just before I get ready to pot my orchid plants I wet the osmunda thoroughly. A plant going into a 4 or 5 inch pot will take but a minute or two to pot thoroughly! It is as easy almost as planting with soil. NO added fertilizer or nutrients need be applied again to the plant in any form for 2 years! The nutrients used dissolve slowly and feed the plant each time you water. It is a simple way of growing an orchid and I have used this method on practically every orchid I grow. I have successfully grown even rare terrestrial orchids in this medium.

Now the purpose of this letter is not to induce you to change over to this method if you are presently happy and successful in your present method of growing. I have simply been swamped with requests for information the past few years from amateurs all over the country who were so confused with the conflicting statements and mediums used by different commercial growers.

If at any time you would like to use my orchid mix it is available to you at the following prices: 5 lbs. - \$7.; 10 lbs. - \$13., postpaid anywhere in the U.S. It does not spoil with age and may be kept stored for years in any dry place. While they last, I will include FREE a \$3.00 special aluminum potting stick that I designed and manufactured, with each order of 10 lbs. of my orchid mix.

Sincerely,

